General Assembly

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Agenda item 65

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/71/L.82)*]

71/321. Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[1] and the solemn commitment to respect, promote and advance and in no way diminish the rights of indigenous peoples and to uphold the principles of the Declaration,

Reaffirming further the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,[2] and recalling the commitment by Member States to consider ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them,

Recalling its resolution 70/232 of 23 December 2015, in which it requested the President of the General Assembly to conduct consultations with Member States, indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions from all regions of the world, and existing relevant mechanisms of the United Nations, on the possible measures necessary to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, and also requested the President to prepare a compilation of the views presented during the consultations, including good practices within the United Nations regarding indigenous peoples' participation, which would form the basis for a draft text to be finalized and adopted by the Assembly during its seventy-first session,

[1] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[2] Resolution 69/2.

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Recalling also other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council,[3]

Recognizing the need to find ways and means of promoting the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions within the United Nations system on issues affecting them, given that they are not always organized as non-governmental organizations,

Emphasizing that the modalities for the participation of indigenous peoples in the work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of indigenous peoples shall continue undiminished,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the compilation of views on possible measures necessary to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in relevant United Nations meetings on issues affecting them, and of good practices within the United Nations regarding indigenous peoples' participation,[4] transmitted by the President of the General Assembly as the basis for a draft text to be finalized and adopted by the Assembly during its seventy-first session;

2. *Welcomes* the constructive and open informal dialogue between Member States and indigenous peoples on the possible measures necessary to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, held during its seventieth and seventy-first sessions;

3. *Encourages* the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of indigenous peoples, in promoting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[1] to continue to address the enhanced participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions within the United Nations on issues affecting them;

4. *Encourages* further efforts to facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, in accordance with their respective rules of procedure, inter alia, through the inclusion of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in the modalities for relevant conferences, summits and other meetings convened by the United Nations on issues affecting them, in accordance with the relevant decisions established by the appropriate body or organization responsible for those meetings;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, by the end of its seventy-fourth session, on achievements, analysis and concrete recommendations on the possible further measures necessary to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, building on the report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of promoting participation at the United

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[3] In particular, Human Rights Council resolutions 18/8 (see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and Corr.1), chap. II) and 21/24 (see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/67/53/Add.1), chap. II).

[4] A/70/990.

Nations of indigenous peoples' representatives on issues affecting them,[5] the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,[6] and the compilation of views transmitted by the President of the General Assembly,[4] as well as on the informal discussions convened during the seventy-first session, as reflected in the relevant correspondence of the President of the General Assembly;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, with the support of Member States, to seek input from indigenous peoples from all regions of the world in preparing the report to be submitted at its seventy-fourth session, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to hold regional consultations, including through the regional commissions, as appropriate, with the support of Member States and relevant agencies and entities of the United Nations system, before the nineteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and requests the Secretary-General to incorporate those inputs in the report;

7. *Decides* to continue its consideration of possible further measures necessary to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in relevant United Nations meetings on issues affecting them at its seventy-fifth session, taking into account the achievements in that regard of other bodies and organizations throughout the United Nations system, to be preceded by consultations with indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions from all regions of the world as an input to the intergovernmental process;

8. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, as part of the preparatory process for the consideration of such measures during its seventy-fifth session, to organize and preside over informal interactive hearings and to prepare a summary of each hearing, during its seventy-second, seventy-third and seventy-fourth sessions, on the margins of the sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, with indigenous peoples, ensuring, to the extent possible, balanced regional representation;

9. *Decides* to expand the mandate of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples so that it can assist representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and institutions to participate in the hearings organized by the President of the General Assembly, as requested in the present resolution, ensuring, to the extent possible, balanced regional representation;

10. *Urges* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples.

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[5] A/HRC/21/24.

[6] A/70/84-E/2015/76.